Development of alternative fuels

2202. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are making concerted efforts to develop alternative fuels to overcome crude crisis;

(b) whether Government have succeeded in their efforts; and

(c) if so, the progress achieved in this endeavour, so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The various steps undertaken for alternative fuel development so far are as follows:

— Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have issued directives for sale of 5% ethanol-blended petrol in 10 sugar producing States and 3 contiguous Union Territories. The success of the programme would, however depend upon assured availability of ethanol at economic prices.

— Two pilot projects at Rewari (Haryana) and Mumbai (Maharashtra) have been launched by the Oil Marketing Companies to examine the operational, financial environmental and other related aspects of blending of bio-diesel with diesel.

— A road map for storage, supply and distribution of hydrogen as an alternative fuel has been drawn up by the Research & Development Centre of Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

— A Steering Committee (backed by a Technical Committee) has been reconstituted during October, 2000 under National Gas Hydrate Programme with the ultimate objective of harnessing gas hydrates on a commercial scale.

Promotion of LPG

t2203. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the average percentage of the consumers of cooking gas in different States in comparison to the population of those States;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether there is a proposal to encourage people to use cooking gas in States where the percentage of the consumers of cooking gas is less as compared to the population; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As of 1.7.2004,42.27% of the total population of the country is covered with LPG. State-wise average percentage is given in Statement *(See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to covering the uncovered blocks/ tehsils/mandals, the Ministry has begun the process to advise the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for innovations. The innovative steps include introduction of 5 kg. cylinders, setting up community kitchens in villages, setting up LPG distributorships in rural and other low consumption areas etc.

Statement

State-wise % age of Population covered by LPG

Sl. No.	States/Uts	%age of population covered by LPG as on 1.7.2004
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	47.60
3.	Assam	28.16
4.	Bihar	12.10
5.	Chhattisgarh	19.43
6.	Delhi	100.00
7.	Goa	100.00
8.	Gujarat	48.91
9.	Haryana	66.88
10.	Himachal Pradesh	92.81
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	61.03
12.	Jharkhand	16.05
13.	Karnataka	45.34
14.	Kerala	71.25
15.	Madhya Pradesh	29.06
16.	Maharashtra	60.44
17.	Manipur	44.81

Sl. No.	States/Uts	%age of population covered by LPG as on 1.7.2004
18.	Meghalaya	18.46
19.	Mizoram	93.24
20.	Nagaland	28.15
21.	Orissa	16.52
22.	Punjab	84.25
23.	Rajasthan	31.12
24.	Sikkim	**81.85**
25.	Tamil Nadu	63.87
26.	Tripura	32.31
27.	Uttar Pradesh	**26.42**
28.	Uttaranchal	**81.12**
29.	West Bengal	28.06
	Union Territories	
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	**56.44**
2.	Chandigarh	100.00
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	55.69
4.	Daman & Diu	92.12
5.	Lakshadweep	25.26
6.	Pondicherry	100.00
	ALL INDIA TOTAL	42.27

Note: It is assumed that there are 5.5 persons per family. Accordingly, the number of LPG (domestic) customers has been multiplied by 5.5 to arrive at the population presumed to be covered by LPG. There may, however, be families without an LPG connection even in States/Uts having a theoretical coverage of 100%.

Realisation of Tax on Sale of Petrol and Diesel

† 2204. DR. MURALI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.